

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-38, 40, 41, 43-47, and 49-55 are currently pending. The present Amendment amends Claims 1, 14, 40, 41, and 43. The changes and additions to the claims are supported by the originally filed application. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2 40, 41, and 43 were objected to because of informalities; Claims 1, 2, 14, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Domoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,689,767, herein "Domoto"); Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Domoto in view of Oda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,498, herein "Oda"); Claims 4-13 were objected to but allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claims 18-38, 40, 41, 43-47, and 49-55 were allowed. Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in the claims.

Applicant notes that an error occurred in the amendment filed on February 9, 2005. Specifically, as evidenced by the statement to that effect in the remarks and the cancellation of Claim 3, Applicant intended to incorporate allowable Claim 3 into Claims 1 and 14, but inadvertently pasted the limitations of Claim 2 into Claims 1 and 14 instead. The present amendment rectifies this error.

That is, amended Claims 1 and 14 now incorporate features from allowable original Claim 3, although with language that is believed to be more clear. To that effect, Applicant notes the features now recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 14 have been even further clarified by reciting "said roller adjacent to the heat source comprises metallic and non-metallic portions, said non-metallic portions having a lower thermal conductivity than metal," which finds non-limiting support in the originally filed application, for example at page 13, lines 10-22. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 2, and 4-17 are now

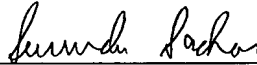
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allowable. Further, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendment overcomes the grounds for the objection to Claim 2 since Claim 1 no longer recites the features of Claim 2.

Consequently, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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